

****DRAFT****
Minutes
Human Services Commission
Thursday, October 23, 2003
5:00 P.M.
Paiute Neighborhood Center – Building 9
6535 E. Osborn
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Present: Chairwoman Fausel, Vice-Chair Bachmann, Commissioners Bilsens, Bitenc, Coudroglou, Reid and Resnick

Staff Present: Connie James, Mark Bethel, Valerie Kime Trujillo and Mary Kay Rieke

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Fausel called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE October 9, 2003 MEETING

Commissioner Resnick moved to approve the October 9, 2003 meeting minutes; Commissioner Coudroglou seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FINALIZED VERSION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ISSUES REPORT

The Human Services Issues Report was introduced and discussed at the last commission meeting. Connie James, Human Services Director, inquired if there were further changes to the report and if not, that the commission vote to approve moving forward with the recommendations outlined in the report.

Commissioner Bilsens moved to approve moving forward with the recommendations outlined in the report and send it on to City Council, as well as approving the draft memo from the Human Services Commission. Commissioner Resnick seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

LEGAL UPDATE

Jay Osborn, Senior Assistant City Attorney, provided information on legal matters of interest to members of Board and Commissions, including discussion of laws related to open meetings, public records, conflicts of interest, campaigning, gifts and gratuities.

Commissioner Bilsens referred to the last meeting presentations on the legislature and if the commission could somehow affect change, perhaps go to dinner to discuss plans. Mr. Osborn indicated that when there are four or more of the commission meeting, it is a quorum. When a quorum meets and may take "legal action", the public meeting laws, including those relating to notice, agenda, minutes, etc., must be complied with. The definition of "legal action" is very broad and includes discussing and deliberating on a matter that may come before the public body for action, as well as voting on it.

Mr. Osborn added that there are social events where all the council may be, and in that case, the event is posted and the public informed that there will be no council business, nor will any legal action be taken. He said that any meeting of the commission should be posted, regardless of where it is, if there is a quorum, and the meeting has to be monitored to make sure that you are discussing what you are supposed to discuss. He added that he would be willing to work

with Connie so that the posting is done properly. Mr. Osborn also said that if the commission is interested in lobbying, however, and since even a discussion of lobbying may involve "legal action", the item should be discussed at a properly noticed public meeting. He suggested that it might be more efficient for the commission to appoint a subcommittee to study the issue. A meeting of the subcommittee would require proper notice, including an agenda, but minutes need not be taken.

Ms. James discussed the East Valley Needs Assessment on November 14 and how they have posted the event where the council and commission have been invited, in case there is a quorum, but that no council or commission business will take place.

Commissioner Bilsens indicated that a brainstorming session with commissioners would be good – to determine how the commission can contribute more. She gave the example of the Housing Board and how they do research. She asked if the commission could gather for a brainstorming session. Mr. Osborn indicated that it would be best to have such a session in a public place, posting it as a regular meeting and the session as an agenda item.

Vice-Chair Bachmann asked if it is inappropriate for a commission member to gather signatures. Mr. Osborn said it is not illegal, but given their position as commissioners, he said the public reception might not be favorable.

Chairwoman Fausel asked if a particular candidate wanted information from a commissioner on a topical issue, and that commissioner needs to research for that information, perhaps asking staff, does that commissioner then have to alert other commissioners that one of the council members is interested in an issue. Mr. Osborn asked if the chair was speaking about a councilperson or a candidate, because it has been policy that if the city attorney got a question, he would share the answer with all of the council. So, he felt it would be a great practice to let the entire commission know if one commissioner was asked for information.

Mr. Osborn ended by saying that commissioners have to make sure what activities are going on and who is in charge, and confirm the activity to a limited area so that you don't have any problems. He added that commissioners could contact him at any time with any questions that they may have.

PAIUTE INVENTORY AND FACILITY UPDATE

Mary Kay Rieke, Human Services Manager – Paiute Neighborhood Center, updated the commission on the inventory and new facilities at the Paiute Neighborhood Center.

Commissioner Bitenc asked if there was a school in the Villa de Maria buildings and Ms. Rieke said yes.

Commissioner Bilsens asked if the same company owns all the units purchased with HOME funds in the Paiute area. Mr. Bethel said yes, in this circumstance, Community Services of Arizona used HOME funds to purchase the properties. He added that most of the units were purchased out of Scottsdale's allocation, but the larger purchase came from Scottsdale's allocation, the Maricopa County Consortium and private lenders.

Commissioner Bilsens asked Mr. Bethel if purchasing units with HOME funds is a good business model that he thinks should continue. Mr. Bethel said it is a good business model and great for Scottsdale because they have older winter homes and targeted populations. He said that in other areas, HOME funds are usually better with vacant land – but Scottsdale is a good match. He added that they focus on properties where owners are out of state and aren't managing the units appropriately; they then lock in the affordability and make sure that whomever purchases the units, that they will be well maintained. Ms. James added that other properties have been purchased in this manner in the Minnezona and Belleview areas.

Commissioner Bilsens asked if the units held Paiute families. Ms. Rieke said yes, many of the families that utilize Paiute live in these units. Ms. James said that one of the things shown on the investment report is the capture of how the Paiute Neighborhood Center and the city has made a difference – they can see what they've done and if the outcomes are different.

Commissioner Bitenc asked if the units have a cash flow. Mr. Bethel said that they are dealing with buyers that are non-profits whose net operating income is low. He added that the city has a deed restriction requiring affordable rental rates that they have to monitor. Keeping the Section 8 reasonable dollar amount limits the agency's ability to get loans. He said that about 6 or 7 years ago when HOME funds were low – agencies could not use them to purchase a home, as they lacked the additional capital. Human Services staff went to the City Council four years ago to request that \$100,000 in General Funds be diverted to the HOME funds allocation. Units purchased in December 2000 went for \$45,000 a unit, and our most recent unit was \$62,000 a unit – the market is increasing and making the HOME fund allocation more difficult to use. Ms. James added that the community and city benefit by having affordable rental units owned by non-profits as opposed to landlords, who do not really care what they charge. The non-profits have standards and they maintain them. Mr. Bethel concurred saying that rather than having an absentee landlord, we have non-profits that keep the units from becoming overcrowded. Ms. Rieke added that often, absentee owners rent one unit to multiple families and charge each family.

Chairwoman Fausel added that regarding Paiute's after school programs, there are new statistics; until last year every dollar invested there was \$7 returned, then \$11 and now that is up to \$17.

Commissioner Bitenc asked where the car seats that are given to qualifying resident come from. Ms. Rieke said that they come from a grant through the police or Scottsdale Healthcare.

Commissioner Bitenc asked if there are more Caucasians in the neighborhood, thus changing who is seeking services. Ms. Rieke said that it is hard to say – there are groups that do seek services – but not anyone group - it is a diverse neighborhood.

Commissioner Bilsens asked what attributes to the overall decrease in the rate of dropouts. Ms. Rieke said she didn't know what it was attributed to, but that she hopes it is Paiute Teen and after school programs. Ms. James added that, unfortunately, the Scottsdale School District only tracks kids who drop out, not those that never make it to high school.

Commissioner Bitenc asked about the change in ethnicity and that it might have to do with the drop out rate, indicating that more Hispanics drop out than Caucasians.

Regarding the rise in police calls in the Paiute area, Ms. James indicated that for a large period of time, families in the area did not have phones or were reluctant to call police because of retaliation – so it is not a bad thing that the calls have risen. Ms. Rieke added that every three months Paiute holds a community meeting and the mothers in the area meet with the officers to discuss what they need to do to make the community safer.

Commissioner Bitenc asked if there are more people in section 702 than in 703. Ms. Rieke said no, there are multi family units in 703, 702 is just the Paiute center.

Commissioner Reid asked how much more full time staff does Ms. Rieke predict will need to be hired with the expansion of Villa de Marie, should they ever sell their buildings. Ms. Rieke said that they may not need any more staff, as the buildings would most likely be for city offices and brokerage agencies. Ms. James added that the Community Assistance Office is currently in offices that the city rents and should the city acquire the Villa de Marie buildings, the staff from CAO will go to Paiute, along with several brokerage agencies.

COMMISSIONER TOUR REPORTS

Commissioners who have recently toured the Scottsdale Foundation for the Handicapped, Teen Lifeline and the Chrysalis shelter updated the commission on their experience.

Commissioner Resnick reported on the Scottsdale Foundation for the Handicapped. Commissioner Bitenc asked if the agency had two facilities. Commissioner Resnick said yes, one on Osborn and one North of Raintree at the Airpark. Ms. James added that the agency has a group home at Las Madrinas.

Commissioner Bitenc asked if Osborn was a work facility and Ms. James said yes, it is a larger facility that the agency rents from the city for \$1 per year.

Vice-Chair Bachmann and Commissioner Bilsens reported on the Chrysalis shelter. Commissioner Bilsens asked if an agenda item could be added to an upcoming meeting to discuss future funding and whether or not the commission should focus on giving more money to fewer agencies or keep doing as they have and give as much money to as many agencies as possible.

Vice-Chair Bachmann reported on Teen Lifeline, an agency which trains and staffs volunteer teens who provide peer counseling and mediation.

STAFF AND COMMISSION UPDATES

Ms. James reminded commissioners about the November 14 East Valley Needs Assessment Summit and that if commissioners wanted to attend, to let her know and she will RSVP for them. Ms. James discussed the next commission meeting, on November 13 at the Kiva at City Hall, and that the meeting will be about depression, teen suicide, senior suicide, peer counseling and grief support. She also indicated that the Department of Economic Security would give a presentation. Ms. James asked if an additional agenda item, a recognition of William Exham, Community Services General Manager, could be placed on the November 13 agenda, as he is retiring on December 13, 2003.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chairwoman Fausel made an open call to the public for comments/questions/ announcements or other business. There were no replies.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be brought before the commission, Chairwoman Fausel asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Resnick moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Coudroglou seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Beth Bossert, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.

Connie James
Director, Human Services